

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A vehicle engine is coupled to a driving system that includes a torque converter and an automatic transmission. An  
5 ECU sets a target value of an opening degree of a throttle valve based on a depression degree of an acceleration pedal. The ECU changes the throttle opening degree at a predetermined gradual change speed such that the throttle opening degree reaches the set target value. The ECU limits the gradual  
10 change speed of the throttle opening degree for a predetermined period such that a changing speed of the engine speed is suppressed at a reverse time when a direction of torque transmitted between the driving system and the engine is reversed. As a result, shock produced when the direction  
15 of torque between the driving system and the engine is switched is suppressed.